

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 4, line 12 (item 8). No new matter has been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue canceled subject matter in a related later filed application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has required Applicants to elect a single invention among Groups (I) – (VIII) to which the claims must be restricted. A species election is also required with each group election.

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group (III), claim 1-3, drawn to compounds of formula (I), wherein R1 is imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole and simple compositions thereof. With the current amendment to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that thiazol-yl-methyl-isothiourea derivatives as a unifying structure unit.

In response to the species election, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the compound of Example 1, 1,3-dicyclohexyl-2-(5,6-dihydro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea.

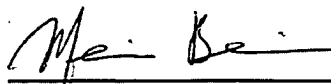
It is understood that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim.

Applicants request rejoinder of the method claims of commensurate scope to the composition of matter claims upon allowance of claims directed to the elected invention, e.g., Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the subject matter corresponding to Groups (V)-(VIII) upon allowance of the claims embodying the elected invention

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments and remarks made herein be entered and made of record in the file history of the present application. If any issues remain in connection herewith, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Inc.
400 Technology Square
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 871-3027



Mei L. Benni
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 45,470

Date: 28 July 2008